



Driftwood Art



Ward Edwards sponsors the “Best Use of Environmental Elements” award at the annual Art Market hosted by the Coastal Discovery Museum. Phillip Simmons, 3-D mixed media artist of Greenville, S.C., is this year’s recipient. Fifty-four artists from twelve states participated in the juried fine art and craft show.

Philip Simmons has the creative eye to see a creature in a piece of driftwood and the talent to liberate that creature for others to see and enjoy.

Philip collects driftwood, mostly from the Albermarle Sound in North Carolina. Trees fall into tributaries that empty there and are broken into pieces which tumble downstream.

Philip chooses the driftwood pieces by “seeing” things in them like fish, birds or dragons. After the wood dries, Philip determines which features will enhance what he sees in the wood. He uses items such as hand-cut copper, tin, leather, glass eyes and found objects to bring his creatures to life. He likes to leave the driftwood just as found, doing little or no carving. He says nature creates the pieces, he just gives them personality.

For more on Philip Simmons:
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For more information on the Coastal
Discovery Museum or Historic Honey Horn:
www.coastaldiscovery.org

